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Letter dated 29 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 October 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 28 October 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative, acting in the usurped capacity as the "representative of Cyprus", during the general debate on disarmament at the 12th meeting of the First Committee on 21 October 1998, which contains allegations that grossly distort the nature of the Cyprus question.

The Greek Cypriot representative refers to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus as an "invasion" and "occupation". I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 35-year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-national partnership Republic of Cyprus established under the 1960 treaties.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in his recollection of the years 1964 and 1974, fails to recall that it was the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught in December 1963 against the Turkish Cypriot people and the bi-national partnership order that led to the division on the island. There is no mention of the systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing which was perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people until 1974, when Turkey acted in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee in the wake of a bloody coup d'état by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus. Turkey's presence as a Guarantor power in Northern Cyprus is an indispensable element for a peaceful solution, as evidenced by the fact that the Turkish peace forces, as a deterrent against Greek-Greek Cypriot aggression, have preserved peace and stability in the island during the past 24 years.

The Greek Cypriot representative in an effort to marginalize the Turkish Cypriot side appears oblivious to the fact that under the good offices mission of the Secretary-General its negotiating partner is the Turkish Cypriot side and that, despite their usurpation of the title of the "Government of Cyprus", the Turkish Cypriot people have equal sovereign rights in Cyprus, the embodiment of which is the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The usurper Greek Cypriot regime or its representatives have no right to question the legality of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, as an independent State, which was established through the free and democratic will of the Turkish Cypriot people.

As regards the Greek Cypriot representative's reference to the so-called "demilitarization proposal" of the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafkos Clerides, I wish to point out that it constitutes a blatant contradiction in terms for the Greek Cypriot administration to pursue an intensive campaign of militarization in line with its policy of escalation while paying lip-service to demilitarization. Ever since the inception of the Joint Military Doctrine with Greece in 1993, the Greek Cypriot administration has undertaken an unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces, including the purchase of the sophisticated S-300 missile system in contravention of successive Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. With the construction and inauguration of the military airbase in

Paphos and the ongoing construction of a naval base in Zyghi for use by the Greek armed forces, South Cyprus has effectively been converted into a military outpost of Greece.

Most ironically, the Greek Cypriot representative's call for demilitarization and for the reduction of tension on the island came at a time, and precisely on a day, when the Greek Cypriot National Guard, together with army, navy and air force units from Greece, were staging provocative military manoeuvres code-named Nikiforos/Toxotis-98 in and around South Cyprus.

Finally, it should be emphasized that, if the Greek Cypriot side is genuinely interested in the security aspect of the Cyprus dispute, it should first accept the implementation of the United Nations package of measures for reducing tension along the border, as called for in successive Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. Similarly, if the Greek Cypriot side is willing to establish bridges of trust and cooperation between the two States then it is incumbent upon its leadership to acknowledge the existing realities on the island. So far all indications are that the Greek Cypriot side prefers to cling on to its usurped title of the "Government of Cyprus" rather than seeking a partnership settlement with the Turkish Cypriot side.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus